

News Release



News Release

Santa Rosa County Public Information ■ 4499 Pine Forest Road ■ Milton, Florida ■ 32583 ■ (850) 983-5254

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#071029-SPAYPROGRAM

Contact: Joy Tsubooka
Public Information Officer
(850) 983-5254

County Offers Low Cost Spay& Neuter Program for Pets

Santa Rosa County has received a one-time grant of \$17,500 from "Florida Animal Friend, Inc." license plate program to offer a discount spay and neuter program for income-eligible residents. Over 70 percent of animals that come to the county's shelter each year face an early death due to an over abundance of animals. By offering this program, Santa Rosa County hopes to make the sterilization of animals more affordable and decrease the number of unwanted animals born each year. Santa Rosa County is one of only 19 non-profit or governmental organizations selected to receive a grant for 2010.

As part of the grant, approved applicants are assigned to a participating veterinarian to have their pets spayed or neutered. Applicants must provide proof of current rabies vaccinations, residency, and income in order to qualify. Animals must be at least six months of age or older. Limit of two animals per household. Does not include animals adopted from the shelter. The grant subsidizes \$50 per cat and \$75 per dog. For more information, call Santa Rosa County Animal Services at (850) 983-4680 or visit the shelter at 4451 Pine Forest Road, Milton between 8a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The application can also be found online at <http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/animals/spayneuter.html>.

To learn more about the animal friend license plate program, visit:
<http://floridaanimalfriend.org/About.html> .

Why Spay or Neuter?

According to the Humane Society of the United States, spaying or neutering is good for you pet, you and the community.

Spaying or Neutering Is Good for Your Pet

- Spaying and neutering helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives.
- Spaying and neutering can eliminate or reduce the incidence of a number of health problems that can be very difficult or expensive to treat.
- Spaying eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer and greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer, particularly when your pet is spayed before her first estrous cycle.
- Neutering eliminates testicular cancer and decreases the incidence of prostate disease.

Spaying or Neutering Is Good for You

- Spaying and neutering makes pets better, more affectionate companions.
- Neutering cats makes them less likely to spray and mark territory.
- Spaying a dog or cat eliminates her heat cycle. Estrus lasts an average of six to 12 days, often twice a year, in dogs and an average of six to seven days, three or more times a year, in cats.

Females in heat can cry incessantly, show nervous behavior, attract unwanted male animals, and also exhibit escape behavior.

- Unsterilized animals often exhibit more behavior and temperament problems than do those who have been spayed or neutered.
- By altering your pet, it will be less likely to be involved in a bite situation.
- Neutering makes pets less likely to roam the neighborhood, run away, or get into fights.

Spaying and Neutering is Good for the Community

- Communities spend millions of dollars to control unwanted animals.
- Irresponsible breeding contributes to the problem of dog bites and attacks.
- Animal shelters are overburdened with surplus animals.
- Stray pets and homeless animals get into trash containers, defecate in public areas or on private lawns, and frighten or anger people who have no understanding of their misery or needs.
- Some stray animals also scare away or kill birds and wildlife.

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**SANTA ROSA COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES
APPLICATION FOR DOG/CAT STERILIZATION
FLORIDA ANIMAL FRIENDS GRANT**

DATE _____ REFERRED BY _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ PHONE (HM) _____ (WK) _____

***ONLY ONE(1) ANIMAL PER APPLICATION**

Circle one: Dog Cat Circle one: Male Female Animal Name _____
Breed Description _____

Color _____ Weight _____

Has your dog or cat been vaccinated against rabies? Yes No
If yes, please list the name/number of the veterinarian who administered the vaccination _____

*Applications will not be accepted without proof of current rabies vaccinations.

*Income must be within the guidelines listed below or proof of a type of public assistance as listed below can be used

Please check the appropriate box(es) that apply

HOUSHOLD INCOME GUIDELINES

Family Size Gross monthly income

- ☐ 1 \$1,127
- ☐ 2 \$1,517
- ☐ 3 \$1,907
- ☐ 4 \$2,297
- ☐ 5 \$2,687
- ☐ 6 \$3,077
- ☐ 7 \$3,467
- ☐ 8 \$3,857
- ☐ 9 \$4,247

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

- ☐ Medicaid
- ☐ Food Stamps
- ☐ WIC Women Infants and Children
- ☐ Free School Lunch Program
- ☐ SSI Supplemental Social Security Income
- ☐ Other Assistance Program _____

*Florida Reference Table: TFSS-Food Stamp Eligibility Standards

1st Income-Employer _____ Phone _____
2nd Income-Employer _____ Phone _____

I certify that I am the sole owner of the above animal. I have read or someone has explained the sterilization procedure to me. I understand that Santa Rosa County is not involved beyond the agreed amount with the provider/veterinarian that is assigned to me. I authorize Santa Rosa County to contact any program under which I am claiming eligibility for the sole purpose of eligibility verification. Santa Rosa County reserves the right to use the veterinarians who agreed to participate and schedule appointments for equitable disbursement of funds. I understand that completing an application does not necessarily guarantee approval. Santa Rosa County reserves the right to deny any applicant providing false or incorrect information. I understand that any additional services/fees agreed upon, prior to or after the surgery, are solely between the veterinarian and the owner, and are not the responsibility of Santa Rosa County Animal Services.

Signature of Owner _____ Date _____

Bring in the application to

Santa Rosa County Animal Services

4451 Pine Forest Road

Milton, FL 32583

(850)983-4680 Monday – Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

FOR ANIMAL SERVICES USE ONLY

Appt Date/Time _____ / _____ / _____ : _____
Vet _____

Animal Services Staff _____

FAF NO _____